

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

TITLE: PROGRAMMABLE THERMOSTAT
SYSTEM EMPLOYING A TOUCH SCREEN
UNIT FOR INTUITIVE INTERACTIVE
INTERFACE WITH A USER

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT - REMARKS

#4
11-24-02
B. Hillard

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. 1.56 and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.97-1.98, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-SB-08A. One copy of the cited document is submitted herewith.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant reserves the right to dispute any of the listed documents as prior art during examination. Further, Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application. Furthermore, the submission of this Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made or that no other material information may exist. Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are patentable over the foregoing references, alone or in combination.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed with a PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL PURSUANT TO 37 CFR §1.102(d) AND MPEP 708.02(I) FOR MANUFACTURE.

The invention is directed to receipt and display by a thermostat of current information from a first remote correspondent.

An extensive and diligent search was made relative to thermostats and other such devices with data connections to a network.

US Patent 5170935 is directed to a system for a human to thermostat interface where a thermostat learns to compare presently input thermal sensations with calculated anticipatory parameters stored in the thermostat. Input means are described for touch screens.

US Patent 4224615 discloses a generalized form of a touch screen for user input.

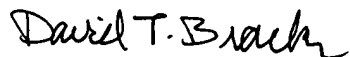
US Patent 5818428 describes a touch screen for a PC or home appliance that can be changed in appearance after purchase by a user to make the interface more acceptable to the user.

US Patent 6344861 discloses that a handheld device such as a PDA may be used wirelessly to form an interface with a thermostat.

The references do not disclose a method for using different touch screen displays which represent subsequent menu or sub listed functions accessible through a touch screen display in a thermostat.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: Oct. 31, 2002

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David T. Bracken". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'D' and 'B'.

David T. Bracken
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